

# OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH

**Father Anthony Hewitt, JCL, Pastor**

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 181, Boca Grande, Florida 33921  
(941) 964 - 2254

## Mass Schedule:

**Saturday**

5:00 pm

**Sunday**

9:00 & 10:30 am

**Mon-Fri**

8:00 am

**First Saturday Anointing**

After 5:00 pm vigil

**Sacrament of Penance**

By appointment

**Parish website address:**

[ourladyofmercy.church](http://ourladyofmercy.church)

**Online Giving:**

[ourladyofmercy.church](http://ourladyofmercy.church)

**Father Anthony email:**

[anthony.hewitt@olomcc.org](mailto:anthony.hewitt@olomcc.org)

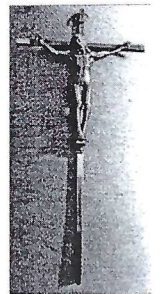
**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**JULY 13, 2025**

## Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Reflection

*"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27*

A scribe asked Jesus what he needed to do to inherit eternal life. Jesus asked the scribe what the Law of Moses taught. The above line was the scribe's response. He was essentially quoting Deuteronomy 6:4, which was a common prayer prayed by the Jews and seen as a summary of the entire Law of Moses as found in the Ten Commandments.



Notice that this summary of the Law does not present a negative prohibition such as "Thou shalt not..." Instead, it is a positive command stating, "Thou shalt love..." Love is the fulfillment of the Law of the Old Testament, as well as the fulfillment of the New Law of Christ. When we love God with our whole being, that love overflows upon all of God's creatures, including our neighbor.

In this Gospel, the scribe goes on to ask Jesus who His neighbor is. Jesus responds by telling the Parable of the Good Samaritan. In that parable, there was a man beaten and left for dead on the side of the road. A priest and a Levite passed by and ignored the man. But a Samaritan passed by and took care of the man, bringing him to an inn and vowing to pay for his recovery. The story concludes by the Samaritan being identified as the one who acted as a neighbor to the victim.

Traditionally, the victim of the robbers in this story has been seen as Adam. Adam represents fallen humanity. The Samaritan represents Jesus who cared for fallen humanity, healed us of sin and provided for our every need. Therefore, according to this parable, Jesus has acted as a neighbor to us, and we must love Him as we love ourselves. But Jesus also says, "Go and do likewise." This is a commission to fallen humanity, now healed of sin, to go forth to others, acting as Jesus Himself, bringing the healing grace they have been given and bestowing it upon others generously.

Sometimes we can see love as a feeling or emotion. Though love is often accompanied by certain emotions and feelings, love is much more. It is an action. In this parable, if the Samaritan simply looked upon the victim and felt sorry for him, had compassion for him but then moved on, he would not have shown love. The love of charity is an action and requires much of us. If we are to fulfill this first and greatest commandment of love of God and neighbor, then we cannot wait until we feel like loving to act. Instead, we must act now and not hesitate. This is love.

Reflect, today, upon the true nature of love. Love, in its most elevated form, is the choice to do what is best for others—to help free them from sin and to be an instrument of God's providence in their lives. It's a participation



in the very love that God has shown us in Christ Jesus by giving His life for our salvation. We are all called to devote ourselves to this same form of selflessness and sacrificial love. Doing so is a requirement for glorious sharing in eternal life. Amen.

### Second Collection This Weekend

July 4, 2025



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

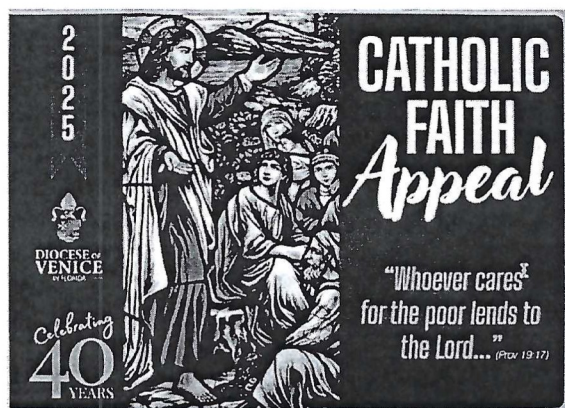
The Catholic Church in Africa continues to grow in spite of the challenges of political unrest, civil and regional wars, as well as social and economic difficulties. Such hardships makes it extremely problematic to meet the extensive pastoral needs of their people.

The Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa provides grants to finance outreach programs, evangelization, education of clergy and lay ministers, as well as schools, which provide religious education for the children. Your donations also provide funds to host projects such as a pro-life conference in Ghana and youth ministry training in Uganda.

The Collection for Solidarity with the Church in Africa will take place the weekend of July 12 and 13, 2025. Please prayerfully consider contributing to this collection. Your support makes a real difference in the faith lives of the people in Africa. Please continue to pray for our African sisters and brothers.

I take this opportunity to extend to you my continued consideration and my prayers! May God bless you abundantly.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
+ Frank J. Dewane  
Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida



### Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) 2025

*Our Lady of Mercy Parish Assessment: \$123,000.00*  
*Pledged as of July 5: \$112,315.00*

*Envelopes and CFA pamphlets are available on the table at the door in the church or donations can be made online, designate our Lady of Mercy Parish*

*<https://dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/cfa/>*

**Safe Environment Training (SET)** - As part of the Safe Environment Program, the Diocese of Venice Requires that all employees and those volunteers who work with children and/or vulnerable adults be fingerprinted and complete online training in SET prior to beginning employment or volunteering. Please visit the Diocese of Venice website. To report any abuse against minors to the Florida Department of Children and Families please call 800-962-2873. Further, if Diocesan personnel or volunteers are involved, notify the Diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator, Susan Benton, at 941-416-6114.

*Thank you for sharing your Time, Talent, and Treasure!*